



VOL. X, NO. 28

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 23, 1904.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS

New Emigrant Inspector

DR. JOHN W. PRATHER DESIGNATED FOR MONTREAL, CANADA.

A Well Known Baltimore Physician Recognized by the Administration—The Appointee Identified With Many Business Enterprises—A Successful Practitioner Since 1895—Some Points In His Career.

It is pleasing to learn in these times when the atmosphere is full of rumors and dark prophets are hurling forth their anathemas and dire prophecies, to know that there is a balm in Gilead and that the race is moving onward and upward in spite of its enemies and in spite of the impedimenta and barriers that stand in the way of its progress. The march of progress may have swerved at times, but the procession has moved grandly on toward the great heights. No sane man doubts the rapid progress of the race along all lines. There are a few things that discourage us, but many things encourage us. In the State of Tillman we find leaders like General Robt. Smalls, Dr. Crum, E. H. Deas, Thomas R. Miller, Bishop Salters, and a host of others. In the great State of Maryland, whence comes Gorman, without mentioning the great Frederick Douglass, Benjamin Banneker, the Garnetts, we have an army of younger leaders who are being recognized in the various professions. Although, until recent years, little recognition—if any—in a political way was given the colored voters of Maryland, the prospects are brightening, and today the Surgeon-in-Chief of Freedmen's Hospital, Dr. W. A. Warfield, is a Marylander. Rev. Ernest Lyon, U. S. Minister to the Republic of Liberia, was appointed from Maryland. And last, but not least, Dr. John W. Prather has been appointed Inspector of Emigration, with headquarters at Montreal, Canada. He is also designated as Chinese Inspector. This is the first appointment of any consequence that comes under the new bureau of the Department of Commerce and Labor, of which Secretary G. B. Cortelyou is the head. It is also the first appointment given to a colored man in the same capacity in a foreign country.

MEN OF THE HOUR.



DR. J. W. PRATHER, BALTIMORE, MD.

Recently Appointed Emigrant Inspector Under the Department of Commerce and Labor, With Headquarters at Montreal, Canada.

Dr. Prather has received his appointment and his instructions and will start for his new post of duty about the 1st of February.

The appointment came to Dr. Prather through the influence of the Republican leaders of Maryland, headed by Congressman Wachter, of the 3d Maryland Congressional District, and a warm personal friend of Dr. Prather. While a good salary is attached to the position, the appointment means more than emoluments; it means that the Republicans of Maryland propose to stand by the colored voters in the future, and propose to recognize them more and more in the higher councils of the party as well as at the polls on election day.

This appointment came to Dr. Prather

in a logical way, for he was the logical man for the place. Though a young man, his life work has been a success. He has made his own way and is architect of his own fortunes. His way to success has been the straight way, and, as he said to the writer, he had not resorted to any tricks of legerdemain, or to any get-rich-quick-schemes, but that he had always found that labor had its own reward.

Of him, a Baltimore exchange says: D. John Wayne Prather was born in Mount Airy, N. C., November 27, 1866. After completing the graded school course at Boonville, N. C., he entered Lincoln University, in Septem-

Continued on page 4.

Thespians in Dixie.

THE BLACK PATTI TROUBADORS AND THE RABBITT CO'S ON THE BOARDS.

Our Memphis Critic Criticises Black Patti and Praises Chappelle, the Business Comedian.—Some Southern Customs in Opera Houses.—Old Favorites Applauded.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Special.—The Theatrical season opened this year with "The Black Patti Troubadors" at the Main Street Auditorium, while "The Rabbitt Foot Comedy Company" held the large audience at Church's auditorium for three hours and a half, making the hearts of everyone glad. "The Black Patti" performances were disappointing in the extreme; all were surprised to know that they were listening at a woman who had the reputation of being the prima donna of the race. As it is not a rule in Memphis to give "niggers" programs when they attend white theatres, the large and enthusiastic black audience that greeted her did not know that she had sang notwithstanding that she had appeared in the third act, as the following will show. After the imitation of Adeline Patti,—in name only—had rendered about six selections, a man in the audience was heard to say: "I am tired of this show now; I wonder how long will it be before Black Patti appears?" When told that he had been listening to her for nearly two hours, he was almost dumbfounded and speechless with amazement. "Why," said he, "Our own Miss Pearl Crawford is far her superior and to compare her with the real prima donna of the race, the one who has bent Memphis audiences at her will, as not one has done since; that matchless and sweet singer, Madam Nellie Brown Mitchell, would be like comparing Billy Kersands with Ira Aldridge." It is safe to say that the crowd that goes to witness this performance is prompted by the same feelings as were the crowds that greeted W. J. Bryan during his efforts to be president. People go either to see the woman with the reputation of being our greatest singer or to witness the other part of her show, all of which is decidedly less tiring than her efforts to do what neither nature nor cultivation have prepared her for.

Continued on page 5.